

NOTES AND MEMORANDA

Members' Meetings

TUESDAY, January 18th, at 5 p.m. Debate : "That the Programme of Social Security set out in the Beveridge Report should be Supported on Eugenic Grounds." *Speakers* : Mrs. E. M. Hubback, M.A., G. Mitchison, Cecil Binney, M.A., and E. J. Lidbetter. *Chairman* : The Lord Horder, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Tuesday, February 22nd, at 5.30 p.m. "The Order of Merit : The Holders and their Kindred." *Speaker* : B. S. Bramwell, M.A. *Chairman* : The Lord Horder, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Tuesday, April 18th, at 5.30 p.m. "The Standard of Living." *Speaker* : D. Caradog Jones, M.A. *Chairman* : The Lord Horder, G.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

The Meetings will take place in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

Eugenics Society's Library

At a Meeting of the Council on November 16th, 1943, it was agreed that the time had come for a complete reorganization and expansion of the *Society's* Library. A Library Committee was appointed and Miss Lane has been asked to combine the work of REVIEW Secretary with that of part-time Librarian. The Committee was glad to learn that Miss Corry would continue to act as Honorary Librarian ; the *Society* is greatly indebted to her for many years of work in this capacity.

It was suggested that some Fellows and Members might possess eugenic classics, including biographies, which they would consider presenting to the Library. Those wishing to do so are invited to communicate particulars to the Librarian, who will be glad to tell them whether copies of the books concerned are needed or are already on the Library shelves. It is hoped that a list of "Books Wanted" will be published periodically in the REVIEW, and it is also proposed to keep Fellows and Members regularly informed,

through these columns, of the titles of recent additions to the Library. K. H.

National Council of Women

THE following resolution, proposed by Mrs. Eva Hubback and seconded by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, was passed unanimously at the Annual Conference of this organization :

The National Council of Women welcomes the promise of the Government to institute an inquiry on the broadest basis into the whole question of birth rate and population and recognizes the need of the Government's adopting a constructive policy to raise the birth rate. It calls upon its branches and affiliated societies, after study of the question to inaugurate as a first step an educational campaign to show : (1) That the size and quality of the family are matters which affect the well-being of the community as well as of the individual family. (2) The probable effect on national well-being and age distribution of a declining population. It further asks the Government : (1) To introduce a scheme of family allowances, starting with the first child, and at rates sufficient to cover the minimum cost of child nurture. (2) To increase the scope and efficiency of the social services relating to maternity and child welfare.

The Conference also passed, unanimously and without alteration, the resolution on dull and backward children, set out in our issue of July 1943 (p. 42).

In its final session, which was concerned with international reconstruction, the Conference heard speeches by Dr. Margaret Mead (U.S.A.), Sir Stafford Cripps, and Mr. George Yeh (China). The last speaker quoted an ancient Taoist philosopher who said "No happiness can be built on the misery of other people" ; and "The only way to peace and wisdom is by the understanding of our own past mistakes."

U. G. D.

High Grade Mental Defectives

DR. KENNETH FRASER, school medical officer for Cumberland, writing to *The Medical Officer*, stresses a point which may have a nation-wide application. "We, as a local authority," he writes, "provide, at substantial annual cost, for the segregation or supervision of low-grade mental defectives—the low-grade and therefore uneducable feeble-minded, the imbecile and the idiot. We make no provision at all for the high-grade mental defective—the child in whom the degree of mental deficiency is comparatively small and, therefore, the child who, by education under special conditions, has a prospect of becoming of economic value to the community as a wage-earner instead of being a burden as a person whose life has to be organized and supervised for him. Plainly this does not make common sense, nor is it consistent with our duties under the Education Act, 1921, section 56, and I think that it is quite clear that in our post-war plans we must make provision for the education under special school arrangements for the high-grade mental defectives in the area." The main difficulty is not in the education of high-grade defectives—there is ample evidence that these, with proper care, can take their place in the ordinary life of the community—but in the protection of society against the fertility of those whose defectiveness is genetically transmissible. Such protection is very commonly desired by the defective persons themselves, who have sufficient insight to understand that they would not make the most desirable of parents. Voluntary sterilization, amply safeguarded in accordance with the recommendations of the Brock Committee, would avoid the cruelty of segregating persons who but for their fertility could enjoy—without danger to themselves or others—the pleasures and comforts of marriage and some of the responsibilities of social life. Further developments in contraception, both in the elaboration of cheap foolproof contraceptives and in the dissemination of knowledge and facilities for their use, would possibly achieve the same end, but not so effectively. The use of contraceptives calls for more restraint and

foresight than may reasonably be expected from any except the highest grades of defectives.

M. D.

The German Birth-rate

ON January 10th the German News Agency announced that in each of the first four years of the war 223,000 fewer children had been born in Germany than in 1939. In the first three quarters of 1943, however, the birth-rate had shown a tendency to rise again, with 42,000 more births than in the corresponding period of 1942.

Awards for Research

PR Lambda Theta National Association of Women in Education announces two awards for research on Professional Problems of Women. The awards are of \$400 each, to be granted on or before September 15th, 1944, and entries may be submitted (not later than August 1st) by any candidate, whether or not engaged in educational work. Information on the awards and the form in which the final report should be prepared will be furnished upon request. All inquiries should be addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Studies and Awards, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California.

Errata

ATTENTION is drawn to the following misprints in the last issue of the REVIEW: page 54, column 2, line 15, for "democratic" read "demographic"; on p. 55, column 2, the name of the author of the paper on family size should have been given as Dr. A. Spencer Paterson; for "inference" in the footnote read "influence."

Aims and Objects

A DRAFT of a new version of the *Society's* Aims and Objects was recently circulated to all Fellows and Members with a request for their criticisms and comments. The covering letter pointed out that, although there had been few changes in the subjects dealt with under the main headings, new features had been added. These were the "General Conclusion" and the review of the *Society's*

past activities. The chief aim had been to make the statement easily intelligible to everyone, irrespective of their educational attainments; the writing had been simplified, the sentences shortened, and the appeal to the reader made more direct. The new version would, it was hoped, be more useful than the current version to people who wanted to know what eugenics was and what this *Society* stood for.

The recent appointment of the Royal Commission on Population provided a valuable opportunity to bring home to the

general public the importance of eugenic principles. Fellows and Members were urged to take advantage of this widespread interest in demographic problems to increase the *Society's* membership.

K. H.

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Society* during the past quarter:

F/Lt. R. C. Clarke
Pte. N. M. Delaney

*F/O D. A. Neff, R.C.A.F.
Mrs. R. H. Quartermaine

PHYSIOLOGICAL ZOÖLOGY

Articles appearing in forthcoming issues:

PHYSIOLOGY OF THE SILKWORM. I. GROWTH AND RESPIRATION OF *BOMBYX MORI* DURING ITS ENTIRE LIFE CYCLE. By T. Y. HSUEH and P. S. TANG, Hua University.

TOTAL AND TISSUE RESPIRATION IN RELATION TO BODY WEIGHT; A COMPARISON OF THE KELP CRAB WITH OTHER CRUSTACEANS AND MAMMALS. By F. W. WEYMOUTH, J. M. CRISMON, V. E. HALL, H. S. BELDING and JOHN FIELD II.

MORPHOGENIC FUNCTIONS OF PAPILLA IN FEATHER REGENERATION. By HSI WANG, Whitman Laboratory of Experimental Zoology, University of Chicago.

OXIDATION-REDUCTION PATTERN IN DEVELOPMENT OF A TELEOST. By C. M. CHILD, Stanford University.

Edited by W. C. ALLEE, Professor of Zoölogy, The University of Chicago. Published Quarterly by the University of Chicago Press.

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